

REMARKS

Claims 1-9 are currently pending in the application. Claims 1 and 9 have been amended. Applicant respectfully submits that no new matter has been added. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the application in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

Claims 1-6 and 8 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 1,733,034 to Tufenkjian ("Tufenkjian") in view of U.S. Patent No. U.S. Patent No. 4,826,249 to Bradbury ("Bradbury"). Independent claim 1 relates to an adaptive pneumatic seat cushion and backrest cushion for vehicles and aeroplanes. Applicant respectfully submits that the cited combination of Tufenkjian and Bradbury fails to disclose at least one of the distinguishing features of independent claim 1, namely, that when a plurality of pouches are filled with compressed air, a shell made of a textile material of low elasticity is tensioned and that a top surface of the tensioned shell forms an actual seat or backrest surface. As disclosed in the subject application, such an invention provides a lightweight, and highly adaptable seat and backrest cushion for use in automobiles or on airplanes. *See, e.g.*, Published Application 2006/0162081, page 1, para 0002.

Tufenkjian is directed to a pneumatic mattress that includes a plurality of tubes 1 formed of rubber or another resilient material. The tubes 1 are held in spaced relation by a cover 2 formed with casings 3 to receive the tubes 1. Portions of the cover 2 between the casings 3 form strips 4 which separate adjacent ones of the casings 3.

Bradbury is directed to a thin inflatable elastomeric vehicle seat that includes a pair of elastomeric sheets that are heat sealed together to define a peripheral manifold and discrete horizontal sections. The horizontal sections are pressurized with a gas to stretch the elastomeric material into its hysteresis range and then attach the same to a frame to provide a cushioned seat. Bradbury has been cited as teaching use of the same cushioned structure for a seat cushion and a backrest cushion.

Applicant respectfully submits that an outer or main covering 12 as disclosed in Tufenkjian is not tensioned when the plurality of pouches are filled with compressed air as claimed. In addition, Tufenkjian fails to disclose that the outer or main covering 12 forms an actual seat or backrest surface as claimed. As disclosed in the subject application, when pouches 7 are filled with compressed air, then due to the tensor characteristics of pressure, each pouch 7 strives to assume a circular cross-sectional shape. However, the shape of the plurality of pockets and their connections to the shell 4 prevents this. However, the shell 4 is tensioned as a result of this restriction. Therefore, a person sitting is supported by the plurality of pockets and by the shell 4 under tension which produces a very different feeling of comfort. See, e.g., Published Application 2006/0162081, page 1, para 0011. Applicant respectfully submits that Bradbury fails to cure the deficiencies noted above of Tufenkjian. Applicant respectfully submits that independent claim 1 distinguishes over the cited combination of Tufenkjian and Bradbury and respectfully requests that the rejection thereof be withdrawn.

Claims 2-6 and 8 depend from and further limit independent claim 1 in a patentable sense. These dependent claims are therefore deemed to distinguish over the cited combination of Tufenkjian and Bradbury for at least the same reasons as those set forth above relative to the rejection of independent claim 1. Withdrawal of the rejection of dependent claims 2-6 and 8 as obvious over the cited combination of Tufenkjian and Bradbury is respectfully requested.

Claims 7 and 9 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tufenkjian in view of Bradbury, and in further view of U.S. Patent No. 4,965,899 to Sekido, et al. ("Sekido"). Claim 7 depends from, and further restricts in a patentable sense, independent claim 1. For the reasons set forth above with regard to amended independent claim 1, claim 7 is patentable over Tufenkjian and Bradbury. The mere addition of Sekido does not cure the deficiencies of Tufenkjian and Bradbury as references.

Independent claim 9 relates to an adaptive pneumatic seat and backrest cushion. Applicant respectfully submits that the cited combination of Tufenkjian, Bradbury, and Sekido fails to disclose at least one of the distinguishing features of independent claim 9, namely, that

when a plurality of pouches are filled with compressed air, a shell made of a textile material of low elasticity is tensioned and that a top surface of the tensioned shell forms an actual seat or backrest surface. In addition, Applicant submits that claim 9 patentably distinguishes over Tufenkjian and Bradbury for similar reasons to those discussed above with respect to independent claim 1. The mere addition of Sekido does not cure the deficiencies of Tufenkjian and Bradbury as references. Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection of independent claim 9 as unpatentable over Tufenkjian, Bradbury, and Sekido be withdrawn.

In view of the above amendment, Applicant respectfully submits that the present application is in condition for allowance. A Notice to that effect is respectfully requested.

Dated: August 29, 2008

Respectfully submitted,

Electronic signature: /Shoaib A. Mithani/
Shoaib A. Mithani

Registration No.: 61,654
WINSTEAD PC
P.O. Box 50784
Dallas, Texas 75201
(214) 745-5400
Attorneys For Applicant